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**Job Description**

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| **Job title:** | Post-Doctoral Research Associate in Exercise and Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) |
| **Department/School:** | Department for Health |
| **Grade:** | 7 |
| **Reporting to** | Professor James Bilzon |
| **Location:** | Claverton Down Campus |

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| **Job purpose** |
| The University of Bath established the Centre for DisAbility Sport and Health (DASH) during the London 2012 Paralympic Games. The centre conducts applied research to enhance the lifelong health and wellbeing of people with physical disabilities and disabling conditions. It now has an established reputation for research to understand the therapeutic role of exercise in persons with spinal cord injury (SCI).  Based in the Department for Health, the successful candidate will lead the development and delivery of research to determine the role of various forms of exercise and/or nutritional interventions to reduce the burden of cardio-metabolic diseases in persons with SCI. As part of this 2-year appointment, the post-holder will develop and contribute new ideas to research strategy and assist with the preparation and submission of research grant applications to fund longer-term studies. There is a significant opportunity to develop research, including multicentre trials, in collaboration with national and international partners.  The post holder is expected to work closely with existing and new partners, both within and outside the University. While the post will not carry any formal line management responsibilities, the ability to work closely with and provide mentoring to a doctoral student will be essential. |

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| **Source and nature of management provided** |
| The line manager for this post will be the Principal Investigator (Professor James Bilzon), but the post-holder will also benefit from specialist technical input from a range of co-investigators, both within and outside the University. |

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| **Staff management responsibility** |
| None |

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| **Special conditions** |
| The work may require some limited work outside the normal working pattern like early mornings, late evenings or weekends based on specific requirements of the project and its partners. Some national and international travel can be expected, particularly for conference attendance/presentations. The post-holder will be expected to complete Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training and acquire a Research Passport to work with NHS patients. |

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| **Main duties and responsibilities** | |
| The job duties and responsibilities listed below are intended to describe the general nature of the role. The duties and responsibilities, and the balance between the elements in the role, may change or vary over time depending on the specific needs at a specific point in time, or due to changing needs in research. Jobholders should note that there may not be an immediate requirement to carry out all the activities listed below. | |
| **1** | Design novel human studies and secure appropriate Research Ethics Committee approval. |
| **2** | Build professional relationships with local research networks and healthcare providers who will assist with participant recruitment. |
| **3** | Deliver approved human studies and conduct biochemical and statistical analyses as necessary. |
| **4** | Write papers for publication in leading research journals and/or leading national/international conference proceedings or other outputs as appropriate. |
| **5** | Present research at national and/or international conferences and/ or at other appropriate events like workshops with partners. |
| **6** | Engage effectively in non-academic impact of research, including knowledge or technology exchange and/or public engagement activities, involving a range of partnerships with external organisations. |
| **7** | Provide assistance to relevant doctoral research student mentoring and supervision. |
| **8** | Work closely with existing partners, enabling them to gain insight and benefit from research findings and outputs. |
| **9** | Identify appropriate opportunities for further research funding to support a longer-term research strategy. |
| You will from time to time be required to undertake other duties of a similar nature as reasonably required by your line manager. You are required to follow all University policies and procedures at all times and take account of University guidance. | |

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**Person Specification**

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| **Criteria** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| **Qualifications** |  |  |
| PhD in Exercise Physiology or related discipline  UG degree in Sport and Exercise Science or related discipline | √  √ |  |
| **Experience/Knowledge** |  |  |
| Knowledge and understanding of spinal cord injury and cardio-metabolic disease  Knowledge and understanding of exercise and cardio-metabolic disease  Experience of designing and conducting complex trials, preferably in clinical populations  Experience of liaising and providing support to patients and medical practitioners  Evidence of published research in quality peer reviewed journals and national and international conference presentations | √  √  √ | √  √ |
| **Skills** |  |  |
| Experience of collecting and storing human biological samples  Experience of conducting a range of biochemical analyses and interpreting such data  Excellent written and verbal communication skills including presentation skills  Excellent interpersonal skills, communication style and team working  An innovative research vision for development, implementation and delivery of successful research projects  Ability to deal appropriately with medical organisations, practitioners and patients  Excellent organisational and administrative skills with ability to work independently and on own initiative  Ability to form positive working relationships within the University, community, business and other partners  Ability to apply for ethical approval for research projects involving human volunteers | √  √  √  √  √  √  √ | √  √ |
| **Attributes** |  |  |
| Commitment to excellence in research  Commitment to working within professional and ethical codes of conduct  Proactive personality | √  √  √ |  |